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Anthony Scoblick, one of the eight people named as defendants by a Federal grand jury in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in connection with an alleged conspiracy to commit a series of acts of anti-war vandalism culminating in the kidnapping of Henry Kissinger, said today in Los Angeles that the grand jury in Harrisburg has issued a third indictment in which those charges have been dropped.

The Harrisburg grand jury issued its first indictment on January 12th and it named the Rev. Philip Berrigan and five other people, including Mr. Scoblick, as participants in the alleged conspiracy. The grand jury released a second indictment on April 30th and it named two additional defendants and an additional charge of conspiracy to interfere with the Selective Service System.

Mr. Scoblick was interviewed this morning by Mary Bess of Pacifica station KPTA in Los Angeles, and he said he had telephoned the Federal district attorney in Harrisburg to confirm a story published last Thursday [12 Aug] by a newspaper there, saying that a third indictment had been issued which charged the defendants only with conspiracy to interfere with the Selective Service System.

[Tape of intv apparently transmitted by phone; quality poor.]

Scoblick: Last week [passage of blank tape] ... indictment against six people who were indicted in January for conspiracy to kidnap Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger, to blow up heating systems in Washington, D.C. In some small, quiet way the government had to quietly slip out the news that this sensational indictment no longer existed. Having created an image of fear around six people in January it would look foolish to, in August, say that they had completely dropped these charges. So I think the government in a very subtle and evil way has quietly informed one local newspaper of a complete reversal of its action against six people. I find it a very significant act --

Bess: What are the superseding charges now, the new conspiracy?

Scoblick: The new conspiracy consists of different charges of conspiracy; actually six charges of conspiracy against eight people, the main thrust of which is interference with the Selective Service System. Theodore Click who was in Danbury but is now in Springfield, Missouri, because he's on a fast, has been convicted for interference with Selective Service in Rochester, New York.

Bess: How does this indictment then affect him?

Scoblick: It almost has the effect of a double jeopardy situation, but not precisely that, but it certainly gives a pat case to the government for convictions. Ramsey Clark and Paul O'Dwyer themselves say that the charges were fabricated in such a way that the whole indictment has been prejudiced, by the pre-trial publicity on the original charges, by the changing of the charges, by confusing charges of violence and charges of non-violence, [garbled] civil disobedience and so on and

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so forth - that the government in this type of malicious prosecution has sort of threatened its own case against the eight people. And more or less, you know, to win a press victory by releasing the attached letters in the second indictment, which were not letters pointing to a conspiracy to bomb and kidnap. If they point to anything, they point to mailing of letters in and out of prison, and that's not a conspiracy to bomb and kidnap.

[End of interview, as broadcast, and end of item.]